

**ULTRA-CLEAN FLUOROPOLYMERS**

5 This application is a divisional of U.S. Serial Number  
09/495,600, filed February 1, 2000, now <sup>U.S. Patent 6,720,360</sup> ~~allowed~~, the  
disclosure of which is herein incorporated by reference. *shl*

**Field of the Invention**

10 The present invention relates to ultra-clean  
fluoropolymers, especially thermoplastic and elastomeric  
fluoropolymers, compositions incorporating such  
fluoropolymers, articles employing such fluoropolymers and  
methods of making and using such fluoropolymers.

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**Background**

High purity fluoropolymers are used in a number of  
industries. They are especially preferred for use in the  
electronic, semiconductor, optical, medical and  
20 pharmaceutical industries to name a few. These polymers  
have a relatively low level of extractable metals and metal  
compounds.

High purity fluoroelastomer compositions are known. See  
EP-B-0 708 797 which discloses an elastomer composition  
25 comprising  
(A) a peroxide-curable elastomeric fluoropolymer,  
(B) an organic acid acceptor,  
(C) an organic peroxide,  
(D) a coagent for the organic peroxide, and  
30 (E) a fluoropolymer micropowder filler.

This composition is said to be free from carbon fillers and  
have less than 500 ppb of extractable metals and metal  
compounds. This low content of metals and metal compounds is  
achieved by selecting metal-free acid acceptors, coagents